Dear Parents,

The month of May has become synonymous with SOL testing throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. Now, more than any other time in memory, testing is increasing and the stakes are higher. Each of us, educator, parent, and student, has an important role in test preparation.

Consider these tips:

- It is important to take tests seriously. Students always want to do their best. Reassure your child that testing time is their opportunity to shine and to show how much they have learned.
- Talk to your child about the test and why they are taking it. Let your child know the test is important, but don’t be overly anxious about their performance on it.
- Encourage your child to relax, and try not to be nervous before the test. They can practice at home taking a few deep breaths, closing their eyes for a moment and tell themselves, to just stay calm and focused.
- Remind your child to listen up. To pay close attention to the teacher’s instructions and carefully read the test instructions to make sure they understand exactly what they are supposed to do.
- If you are having a hard time with one question, it is usually a good idea to leave it and go on to the other questions.
- As a rule, you should stick with your first answer. But if you’ve thought about it afterward and now think that answer is better, go ahead and change it.
- Never underestimate the importance of home support: a good night sleep, a good breakfast, and positive send off from home, you provide the launching pad!

One of the best things about tests is that when they’re over, they’re over. The results won’t be known for several weeks or months, so the best thing to do after the test, for both parents and students, is to breathe a big sigh of relief and then celebrate!

In closing, it was so nice to see so many of our volunteers at our recognition luncheon. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank the many parents and community members who contribute to making Island Creek Elementary School such a special place.

Thank you for being our partner in education.

Susan Z. Owner, Ph.D.
Principal
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Monday Activities</th>
<th>Tuesday Activities</th>
<th>Wednesday Activities</th>
<th>Thursday Activities</th>
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<td>7:30am 6th Gr. Book Club</td>
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<td>7:30am 6th Gr. Book Club</td>
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<td>5:30-7:30pm GOR pre-race dinner, Cafe</td>
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<td>3:30-4:30 Chess</td>
<td>3:30-4:30 Chess</td>
<td>1:20 TWO HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL</td>
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May 2011
2010 - 2011 SOL Testing Schedule

It is helpful if you can avoid appointments which may take your child out of school during testing. Also, it will help your child perform his or her best if he or she has had a good night’s rest, a healthy breakfast, and comes to school with a positive attitude.

Third Grade SOL Testing
- 5/19 Reading Part 1
- 5/20 Reading Part 2
  - 5/25 Science
- 5/27 Social Studies
  - 6/2 Math

Fourth Grade SOL Testing
- 5/19 Reading
- 5/24 Social Studies
  - 6/1 Math

Fifth Grade SOL Testing
- 3/8 Multiple Choice Writing
- 3/10 Direct Writing
  - 5/18 Reading
- 5/25 Math *Recent Change*
- 5/27 Science *Recent Change*

Sixth Grade SOL Testing
- 5/17 Reading
- 5/24 Social Studies
  - 5/26 Math

SOL Testing Makeup Dates
- 5/23
- 5/31
- 6/3

If you have any questions, please call the school office at 571-642-6300.
√ Check-it Out 
at the 
Library

April Library Happenings
Here are just a few of the many things that have happened:

- Island Creek is one of 10 schools piloting new library software for the county. It is an honor for our school to be selected. Our feedback and recommendations are being incorporated into this new product which is scheduled to be released August 2011.

- Kindergarten and first grade classes learned about poetry and wrote class poems about Island Creek. The poems are charming.

- All 2nd grade classes have been learning about and practicing using dictionaries.

- Mrs. Fay’s 2nd grade class continued to work on their “top secret” poetry project. In library this month they learned about: haiku and concrete poems. The students are wonderful poets.

- Mrs. Connell’s 4th grade class has been researching their Virginia historical person. They are using biographies, nonfiction books, encyclopedias, etc. to find information about their person.

- All four 5th grade classes are doing research for the Global Awareness & Technology projects. They are doing a great job taking notes and citing their sources.

Stay tuned for more library happenings...

Library Books Due: June 7th
It is hard to believe but the end of the school year is drawing to a close. All student library books should be returned to the school library no later than Tuesday, June 7th!

6th Grade Book Club
The 6th grade book club is meeting, Thursday, May 12th at 7:30am in the library. We are reading Love, Ruby Lavender by Deborah Wiles. See you there!!

You can access the library catalog from home: http://libcat.fcps.edu/uhthin/cgiisirs/i/x/0/0/57/49?user_id=129WEB
Pool Safety

Swimming pools will be opening soon. With that in mind we are sending you a few pool safety tips to use with your children for the summer. Some are for public pools and some are for privately owned pools.

- Never leave children alone in or near the pool or spa, even for a moment.
- Keep rescue equipment (a shepherd’s hook - a long pole with a hook on the end - and life preserver) and a portable telephone near the pool. Choose a shepherd’s hook and other rescue equipment made of fiberglass or other materials that do not conduct electricity.
- Avoid inflatable swimming aids such as "floaties." They are not a substitute for approved life vests and can give children a false sense of security.
- Children age 4 and older should be taught to swim. Parents may choose to start swimming lessons before age 4 if their children are developmentally ready, but swim programs should never be seen as “drown proofing” a child of any age.
- Whenever infants or toddlers are in or around water, an adult should be within arm's length, providing "touch supervision."
- Avoid Entrapment: Suction from pool and spa drains can trap an adult underwater. Do not use a pool or spa if there are broken or missing drain covers. Ask your pool operator if your pool or spa’s drains are compliant with the Pool and Spa Safety Act.
- Make certain children do not run poolside. They are susceptible to falls and could fall unconscious into the pool, or sustain other injuries.
- Ensure children know not to go into the pool unless adult supervision is present.
- Teach children how to be safe when diving for toys in the pool; they can become obsessed with getting the object and staying under water too long.
- Enjoy your family time at the pool. Stay safe and happy and make new memories whenever you can!

Your partners in Character Education

Virginia Hulke
Stefanie Shelesky
School Counselors

Source: http://www.aap.org/family/tipppool.htm
Senior Scientists and Engineers in the Classroom
by Sally Berman

Island Creek is one of the few schools in FCPS with scientists in the classroom. Some of the many benefits to students include:

learning science with scientists
having another adult who cares about the student and his learning
the opportunity to ask questions and increase curiosity.

Jack Byers is a retired mechanical engineer who has volunteered weekly for two years with Sally Berman in 6th and 4th grades. Jack helps with science lessons as well as helping with other academic areas. He reads with students and helps them with math and writing. The students know that Jack CARES about them.

Carol Valent, teaching 2nd grade, has just recently paired up with scientist, Richard Thus who will be working with her students.

The program that supports this partnership is called AAAS/SSE STEM Volunteer Program. (American Association for the Advancement of Science/Senior Scientists and Engineers promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) That is a mouthful! The program places scientists in K-12 schools with the aim of improving the science education of all the students. Currently there are about 50 active volunteers in Montgomery County, MD and Fairfax County, VA.

Our hope is that more Island Creek teachers will have the opportunity to participate in this wonderful program.

Important Immunization Requirement for Rising Sixth Graders

If you have a rising sixth grader, he or she may need a booster dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis). Sixth grade students cannot begin school in the fall without documentation of having had either the Tdap booster OR documentation of having had a tetanus containing vaccine within the past five years. Parents and guardians of current fifth graders should check their child’s immunization records.

- If your child is 11 years old, he or she should get the Tdap immunization, and documentation should be provided to the school.
- If your child is still 10 years old, he or she may receive the Tdap vaccine, Boostrix, which is approved for 10-year-olds, or you may wait until the 11th birthday to receive the vaccine approved for 11-year-olds.
- If your child’s 11th birthday is after the first day of school, your child must have a medical exemption from the doctor stating when he or she will receive the Tdap immunization in order to attend school.

Documentation that your student has received this immunization should be brought to the school registrar no later than June 21, 2011. Fairfax County Public Schools tracks compliance for this state requirement. When the 2011-12 school year begins on September 6, 2011, sixth graders will not be assigned to a teacher without documentation being received by the school.

If you have any questions, you may contact Deborah Jackson, the school public health nurse, at 703-704-6100, or email her at deborah.jackson@fairfaxcounty.gov.